

Independent claim 14 has been amended. Dependent claim 21, therefrom, has been cancelled. Dependent claims 22 and 23, therefrom, have been renumbered as dependent claims 21 and 22.

Independent claim 24 has been amended and renumbered as independent claim 23. Dependent claims 25 - 32, therefrom, have been renumbered as dependent claims 24 - 31, along with appropriate renumbering of each claim dependency.

Independent claim 33 has been amended and renumbered as independent claim 32. Dependent claim 34, therefrom, has been renumbered as dependent claim 33, along with appropriate renumbering of claim dependency. Dependent claims 35, 36, and, 37, therefrom, have been cancelled.

Independent claim 38 has been amended and renumbered as independent claim 34. Dependent claims 39 - 44, therefrom, have been renumbered as dependent claims 35 - 40, along with appropriate renumbering of each claim dependency. Dependent claim 45, therefrom, has been cancelled.

REMARKS

Establishment of the International Preliminary Examination Report of the above identified application including the amendments above and based on the remarks following is respectfully requested. This amendment is in response to the first PCT Written Opinion mailed 17 September 2001.

In the Written Opinion, the Examiner stated that original claims 3 - 5, 8 - 10, 12 - 13, 15, 17 - 20, 22, 23, 25 - 30, 32, and, 39 - 44, represent Novelty (N); that original claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 11, 14, 16, 21, 24, 31, 33 - 38, and 45, do not represent Novelty (N); that original claims 3 - 5, 8 - 10, 12 - 13, 15, 17 - 20, 22, 23, 25 - 30, 32, and, 39 - 44, represent Inventive Step (IS); that original claims 1, 2, 6, 7, 11, 14, 16, 21, 24, 31, 33 - 38, and 45, do not represent Inventive Step (IS); and that original claims 1 - 45, represent Industrial Applicability (IA).

By this Response, the Applicants have amended the Specification by correcting 'obvious-to-correct' typographical or editorial errors.

By this Response, the Applicants have amended independent claim 1, and dependent claim 2, therefrom, and, independent claims 6, 14, 24, 33, and, 38, and, cancelled dependent claims 21, 35 - 37, and, 45, in order to properly and better claim the originally disclosed invention, and in order to clearly distinguish the novelty and inventive step of the present invention from that disclosed in the particular prior art references cited by the Examiner, and from other prior art in general.